



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

August 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Ms. Mary Ann Tierney (Via Facsimile – 215-931-5590)
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Emergency Management Agency
615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, 6th Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, I am requesting that you declare an emergency for the District of Columbia as a result of

The impact of Hurricane Irene on the District of Columbia beginning August 26, 2011 and continuing.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under District law and directed the execution of the District Response Plan on **August 26, 2011**, in accordance with Section 501(a) of the Stafford Act.

A State of Emergency has been declared, effective August 26, 2011, for the entire city of Washington, DC.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments, and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary to save lives, protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. I am specifically requesting

Category B- Emergency Protective Measures to include direct federal assistance, including technical assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in emergency power generation. Historically, the District has experienced utility outages for an extended period and I anticipate significant requirements for extended emergency power; technical assistance from USACE in conducting building inspections of identified shelters due to potential damage from the recent earthquake. District engineers initiated inspections of buildings immediately following the earthquake but we were unable to complete work on all facilities, including potential shelters, prior to the onset of Hurricane Irene. Also, technical assistance is requested in securing ambulance support through the national ambulance contract. This assistance is necessary due to an anticipated surge in calls for ambulance service as a result of projected conditions associated with flooding and extensive power outages.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of emergency assistance needed under the Stafford Act, and emergency assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure A.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this emergency:

Actions taken in response to this emergency include the following: activation of the emergency operations center, activation and operation of five (5) emergency shelters, relocation of homeless populations to the emergency shelter facilities, distribution of emergency supplies including sandbags, provision of first aid supplies to staging areas, clearance of catchbasins and coordination with local utilities regarding restoration of service; activation of the District Response Plan

The following information is furnished on efforts and resources of other Federal agencies, which have been or will be used in responding to this incident:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Provision of sandbags (already requested and provided), emergency power generation anticipate under this request, and technical assistance with structural inspections anticipated under this request.

DC National Guard – Aerial damage assessment surveys, law enforcement support for ESF 13, surveys of damaged areas, and transportation support of equipment, supplies

I certify that for this emergency, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.²

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, as stated above.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the District of Columbia agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easement, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work.
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;

3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris clearance, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety by providing access to emergency services vehicles and/or egress of private vehicles for emergency purposes.

Pursuant to Sections 502 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5192 & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency Director, Millicent West or her designee as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessment and may provide further information or justification on my behalf:

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent C. Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vincent" being the most prominent part.

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor